

How Felician Sisters Came To U.S. 100 Years Ago

By early afternoon on Wednesday, Nov. 21, more than 500 Felician sisters from three states had gathered at the Motherhouse Chapel on the grounds of Madonna College in Livonia.

They were there for a special thanksgiving mass to initiate the year-long celebration of their 100 years in North America.

Appropriately, the service, which Provincial Superior Mother Mary Columbine called "a family homecoming," was held Thanksgiving eve.

In November 1874, the first five Felician sisters arrived in the United States from Poland. They had been sent by the community's founder, Mother Mary Angela of Warsaw.

The five — Mother Mary Monica, Sister Mary Cajetan, Sister Mary Wenceslaus, Sister Mary Vincentine and Sister Mary Raphael — came at the request of Joseph Dabrowski, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.

They settled in Polonia, Wis., to work with the Polish immigrants. They were soon involved in teaching adults, children and Indians, in child care, care of the sick and the abandoned.

Many more requests followed the first from Father Dabrowski. They came from as far away as New England. In 1882, the first provincial motherhouse was moved from Wisconsin to a more central location, Detroit. In 1936, it was moved again, from St. Aubin and Canfield in Detroit to Schoolcraft and Levan in Livonia.

In the meantime, six other provinces had been formed with vice provinces in Ontario and Brazil. Now, instead of five, there are some 3,400 Felician sisters involved in all kinds of service

— teaching, social work, nursing, school, hospital and agency administration. Mother Columbine describes the service: "We are strictly dedicated to the needs of the community in which we live and the country."

The mass celebration in Livonia was a family homecoming, for each of the sisters had called the Livonia Motherhouse home before being sent to one of 57 places to work.

These include: St. Mary Hospital, 46 elementary schools, two consolidated elementary schools, five high schools, seven central high schools, Madonna College, two fulltime confraternity

centers, 37 parish religious classes, 14 mission centers, a home for dependent children in Jackson and a home for the aged in Saginaw.

Geographically this province includes the Archdiocese of Detroit and eight dioceses: Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Marquette, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Gaylord, Toledo, Ohio and Fort Wayne, Ind.

Last week's mass marking the opening of the centennial year was purely a family celebration. Principal celebrant was the Most Rev. Arthur H. Krawczak, of Ascension Church, Warren. A 69 member sisters choir led the congregation in the liturgy. It was followed by a meal and a get-together.

Mother Columbine called it "a big day for us." She says there will be celebrations next year in Livonia and other communities in the province that will be open to friends and the general public.

To commemorate the centenary of American service, Sister Mary Elicious recently completed a wall mosaic for the motherhouse. Sister Elicious, formerly on the Madonna College faculty, is instructor in fine arts at Central High School in Jackson.

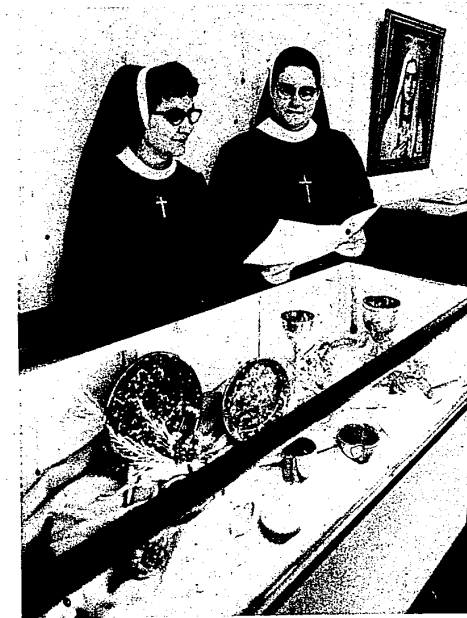
She describes mosaic as, "a happy media," and her design of traditional Christian and Felician Order symbols as "sort of cubistic — old thought in new clothes."

There are also display cases of memorabilia of the history and early years of the Felician Sisters in America — the bronze bells used to summon the sisters to prayers, a metal cross which hung on a chain outside the front door, dishes used 100 years ago, the original constitution of the new community, pictures and letters from the founder and the original assignment book for the five who went to Wisconsin.

The Livonia motherhouse, built in 1936, is now part of a complex which includes Madonna College, Ladywood High School, St. Mary Hospital and Maria Nursery.



MOTHER COLUMBINE (left) and Sister Elicious, artist of the commemorative mosaic panel, discuss the symbolism of the work. The colorful design is done in Venetian tile. The brilliant sun represents God. Directly below is the Immaculate Heart of Mary through which the Felician Sisters have given all their love in prayer and worship in their 100 years in America.



STORY: Corinne Abatt
PICTURES: Harry Mauthe

LEFT PHOTO: A collection of memorabilia of the early years of the Felician Sisters in America is now on display at the Livonia motherhouse. Behind the case are Sister Lauren, (left) and Sister Serra.



THE 69 MEMBER CHOIR was made up of sisters from various areas of the province.

Those in the white habits are nursing Sisters from St. Mary Hospital.

21 ways to conserve fuel and money in your home.

The energy shortage in Michigan is for real.

Our supply of heating fuel will be less this year, and we must take steps to make it last all winter. If we each cut back just a little, there should be sufficient energy for everyone.



Things you can do that don't cost money:

1. Turn down your thermostat 2 degrees every other day, until you find the least temperature at which you can be comfortable. (You may be surprised to find that it is below 70 degrees.)
2. Turn down your thermostat at night (also during the day also if everyone is away all day).
3. Close doors and turn off heat to unused areas of home.
4. Close drapes and pull shades at night.
5. Change furnace air filter at least once a month to maintain efficiency.
6. "Balance" system by regulating heat directed to each room (to eliminate a waste of heat in "hot" areas of home).
7. Open shades and drapes on sunny days.
8. Do not hold open outside doors for conversation.
9. Clear all obstructions away from registers and grilles, such as drapes, rugs, chairs, etc., which would restrict air movement.
10. Close fireplace damper when not in use.
11. Turn down your thermostat when away for the weekend or on vacation.
12. Wear heavier clothing at home.

Things you can do that will cost money now, but will more than pay for themselves later:

13. Have heating equipment checked, cleaned, and adjusted for top efficiency by a qualified serviceman.
14. Add insulation in ceiling and walls.
15. Add storm windows and storm doors to your home.
16. Caulk cracks around window and door frames, or any other small openings to the outside.
17. Add a humidifier. Extra humidity brings a feeling of warmth at a lower temperature.
18. Add weather-stripping around doors and windows.
19. Insulate heating pipes or ducts where they run through unheated attics or crawl spaces.
20. Modernize old heating system by replacement with newer, more efficient equipment.
21. Add a clock-thermostat to adjust your heat automatically.

Some special conservation practices for use in commercial and public buildings:

- Turn down temperature in lobbies and other public places.
- Schedule evening meetings into a single heated zone of larger buildings.
- Operate ventilation to the outside on a timed schedule instead of continuously.
- Open blinds and drapes on sunny days.
- Install automatic door closers.
- Control heat by zones, and turn down heat to unused areas.
- Use partitions to isolate areas open to the outside (shipping area with open doors, etc.).

Some estimates of how much you might save on your heating budget:

Whether you heat with gas, fuel oil, or electricity, heating experts estimate that you may be able to save anywhere from 10% to 50% on your present heating efficiency.

PERCENT FUEL SAVINGS		
Fuel Savings With Thermostat Turn-Down	1-HOUR NIGHT TEMPERATURE SET BACK	PERCENT OF FUEL SAVED
	5°	7%
	7½°	9%
	10°	11%

DOLLARS SAVED PER YEAR IN THE MICHIGAN CLIMATE		
CONSERVING MEASURES	HEATING EQUIPMENT	FUEL COSTS
	Gas	Oil
CHANGING OF HEAT		
Set back thermostat 5° at night	11	13
Set back thermostat 7½° at night	12	14
Set back thermostat 10° at night	13	15
INSULATING		
Weatherstripping doors and windows	11	13
Insulating heating pipes and ducts	12	14
Insulating attic and crawl spaces	13	15
CAULKING		
Sealing cracks around doors and windows	11	13
Sealing cracks around foundation	12	14
Sealing cracks around roof	13	15

Need more technical details on some of these heat-conservation measures?

Check with your local utility company, fuel oil dealer, lumber yard, or hardware store. Read the special 10-page section in the October, 1973, issue of *Popular Science* at your public library. For \$1.75 you can buy a copy of *Green Action Guide to Energy Conservation* from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The Governor's Task Force on Fuel Supply, Department of Commerce, State of Michigan.



MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCIAL administration greet Bishop Arthur Krawczak, principal celebrant of the mass of thanksgiving.

From left: Sister Avila, Sister Carmeline, Sister Consuela, Sister Serra and Mother Columbine.